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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 26 Jan. 1950

SUBJECT Status of Berlin Quartz Melting Plant, Berlin-Heinersdorf

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

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1. The firm had been damaged by bombs in 1944 and was dismantled in 1945. Transformers and molds were sent to LENINGRAD. At the time of observation the melting plant, which had been re-erected, had received a reparation order together with another firm of FREIBERG, Saxony. The latter produced lead pieces as parts of quartz tubes. The whole was not assembled in BERLIN.
2. On 18 November 1948 the manager of the above-mentioned firm told informant:
  - a. A few days ago some Czechs from PRAGUE had ordered quartz apparatus.
  - b. Quartz dishes (trays) are delivered to IG BITTERFELD, where they are used mostly for the manufacture of synthetic precious stones to be sold on the world market.
3. The firm produces apparatus from quartz which is obtained from arenaceous quartz which formerly came from the Teutoburger Wald, but now from Hohenbocka, Niederlausitz. The apparatus are not blown but mechanically manufactured. The firm mainly produces stove pipes, immersion heaters, etc. Small pipes for pyrometers could not yet be manufactured. The crucibles could only be cut from the pipes as the molds had been either damaged by bombs or gotten lost in the dismantling operations. New molds were very expensive and took too long for delivery.
4. Statements made by a leading German employee:
  - a. The reparation order placed with the firm was mainly for pipes and apparatus produced mechanically which were required in Russia for heavy water and uranic acid. A quartz melting plant had allegedly existed in Russia but was damaged during the war. Also, most of the Russian specialists had disappeared during the war.

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Date: 12 JUN 1978 By: 019

Approved For Release 2000/06/08

CIA-RDP82-00457R004200420010-2

Next Review Date: 2008

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-2-

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5. In conversations the following information concerning the German quartz melting plant could be obtained:

- a. The managing engineer was Herr JOHN, who was deported to the Soviet Union in the fall of 1946. He is said to be working as a quartz-blower somewhere near LENINGRAD.
- b. The German quartz melting plant, which is still operating, produced quartz glass from mountain crystal. This quartz glass was transparent whereas the glass produced from quartz material was only diaphanous. Quartz material could withstand temperatures up to 1830°F. The firm produced crucibles, evaporating dishes, and spray pumps but had difficulty in getting good mountain crystal.

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Comment:

- a. The location of the BERLIN quartz melting plant in or near LENINGRAD could not be determined.
- b. As the use of quartz pipes in the field of physics and chemistry as well as of metallurgy is extremely extensive, no conclusions can be drawn as to the intended use in this case, the available data being insufficient. The statements made in para 4 mentioning the intended use of the apparatus and instruments (for heavy water and uranic acid) need careful checking. The use of quartz crucibles for the manufacture of synthetic precious stones for precision measuring instruments seems credible. The great demand of the Soviet Union for diamonds and synthetic precious stones is confirmed by the reparations orders with the Zeiss Firm, JENA (drawing diamonds) and by their large purchases of precious stones in Switzerland and the Netherlands. The existence of a comparatively large plant for the manufacture and the shaping of precious stones, Plant No 837, at UGLICH, YAROSLAVL Oblast, has been confirmed.
- c. The quartz melting plant at BERLIN-STAAKEN is a small factory employing only about 30 workers.

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